

The Hongkong Telegraph.

No. 2997

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1891.

SIX DOLLARS PER QUARTER.

Banks.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA, LIMITED.

Authorized Capital.....\$1,000,000
Subscribed Capital.....\$500,000
Head Office: Hongkong.

Court of Directors.
D. Gillies, Esq., Chairman.
Chan Kit Shan, Esq., W. Watson, Esq.,
C. J. Hirst, Esq., Queen Ho Chuen, Esq.,
A. B. McKray, Acting Chief Manager.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN LONDON.
THOMAS CARMICHAEL, Esq., Messrs. Dent
Palmer & Co.
JOHN BUTTERY, Esq., Messrs. John Buttery &
Co.
C. B. STUART-WORTLEY, Esq., M.P. for Halifax.
G. W. F. PLAYFAIR, Manager.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SHANGHAI.
Hui Fu Yuen, Esq., Lim Kwai King, Esq.,
Ma Kie Tohung, Esq., Chu Ming Siang, Esq.,
Tong Kwei Sang, Esq.,
J. D. THORNBURN, Manager pro tem.

THE Bank is now prepared to make advances on goods in neutral Godowns, and on other securities, at rates to be obtained on application.
Also to receive Money on Current Account or Fixed Deposit.
Interest for 12 months "Fixed," 5 per Cent.
"Current," 4 " "

CURRENT ACCOUNTS.
For rates of interest for other periods apply to the Manager.
Hongkong, 30th October, 1891. [1166]

THE NEW ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION, LIMITED.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL.....\$1,000,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL.....\$800,000

Head Office.....40, Threadneedle Street,
West End Office.....25, Cockspur Street.

BRANCHES IN INDIA, CHINA, JAPAN
AND THE COLONIES.

THE BANK receives MONEY ON DEPOSIT, Buys and Sells BILLS OF EXCHANGE, Issues LETTERS OF CREDIT, forwards BILLS for COLLECTION, and Transacts Banking and Agency Business generally, on terms to be had on application.

E. W. RUTTER,
Manager. [1160]

Insurance.

THREE IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT THE STANDARD LIFE OFFICE.

- 1.—HALF A MILLION STERLING per annum is being paid in Death claims year by year.
- 2.—THE FUNDS IN HAND amount to upwards of Seven Million pounds Sterling, and have increased 50 per cent. in the last 15 years.
- 3.—THE LIVES who die are annually replaced by more than double the number of new carefully selected lives.

DODWELL, CARLILL & Co.,
Agents, Hongkong.

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NOTICE.
THE MAN ON INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED.

CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED.....\$1,000,000.

The above Company is prepared to accept MARINE RISKS at CURRENT RATES, on Goods, &c. Policies granted at all Ports of the world payable at any of its Agencies.

WOO LIN YUEN,
Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE,
No. 7, Queen's Road West,
Hongkong, 1st February, 1892. [1161]

GENERAL NOTICE.
THE ON TAI INSURANCE COMPANY, (LIMITED).

CAPITAL, TAXES \$600,000. \$513,333.33.
EQUAL TO \$1,000,000.
RESERVE FUND \$318,000.00.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
Lee Sing, Esq., Lo Yee Moon, Esq.,
Lo Yee Sun, Esq.,

MANAGER—HO AMEI.

MARINE RISKS ON GOODS, &c., taken at CURRENT RATES to all parts of the world.

HEAD OFFICE, 8 & 9, PRAYA WEST,
Hongkong, 17th December, 1891. [1178]

Hotels.

THE SHAMBEEN HOTEL.

BRITISH CONCESSION, CANTON.

THIS FIRST CLASS HOTEL, admirably situated within a few minutes walk of the River Steamer Wharves, is now open to receive Visitors.

The Bed-rooms are cool, airy and comfortably furnished, and the spacious Dining Room, Sitting Room, and accommodation generally will be found equal to the best Hotels in the Far East.

The Table D'Hôte is supplied with every luxury in season, and the cuisine is of the best quality daily.

Wines, Spirits, Malt Liquors, &c., of the best quality daily.

A WELL APPOINTED BILLIARD ROOM.
A. F. D. ROZARIO,
Manager.
Hongkong, 1st September, 1891. [1158]

Intimations.

W. BREWER

IS NOW SHOWING.

A MAGNIFICENT SELECTION OF
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CARDS.

THE ENGLISH MAIL OF NOVEMBER 12TH.

WILL REACH ENGLAND ABOUT THE 23RD DECEMBER.

W. BREWER,
UNDER HONGKONG HOTEL. [1159]

W. POWELL & CO.

IMMENSE STOCK OF NEW GOODS.

LATEST NOVELTIES IN

TOYS! TOYS!! TOYS!!!

W. POWELL & CO.

Hongkong, 14th November, 1891.

CARMICHAEL & Co., Ltd.

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS—TOBACCO AND CIGAR IMPORTERS,
GENERAL STOREKEEPERS AND COMMISSION AGENTS.

SHOOTING STOCKS FOR SPORTSMEN.
BUCKSKIN LEGGINGS.
PORPOISE HIDE BOOTS.
CANADIAN CREAMERY BUTTER and CHEESE.

CARMICHAEL & Co., LTD.
18, Praya Central, Hongkong.

Hongkong, 17th October, 1891. [1168]

ROBERT LANG & CO.

NEW HATS.

BLACK, GREY AND BROWN FELTS
SINGLE TERAI HATS
(ALL SHAPES).

STRAW AND PITH HATS.

Hongkong, 5th June, 1891.

KELLY & WALSH, LD.

JUST LANDED

TENNIS GEAR.

TENNIS BATS.

SALTER'S CELEBRATED BLACK-GUT RACKETS
in a variety of Shapes and Weights.

TENNIS BALLS.

AYRES' CHAMPIONSHIP TENNIS BALLS.

AYRES' SEAMLESS TENNIS BALLS.

CHEAP REGULATION TENNIS BALLS.

TENNIS SHOES.

SALTER'S ALL BUCK RED RUBBER SHOES, the very best Shoe ever imported.

SALTER'S CHEAPER CANVAS SHOES.

AYRES' CANVAS AND RUBBER TENNIS SHOES.

TENNIS NETS AND POLES.

FOR FULL SIZE COURTS.

KELLY & WALSH, LIMITED,

QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, HONGKONG.

Hongkong, 17th November, 1891.

SADDLERY & STABLE REQUISITES.

SADDLES, HARNESS, RIDING WHIPS, DRIVING WHIPS.

SADDLE CLOTHS, WEIGHT CLOTHS, CLOTHING, SURCINGLES,
BRIDLES, RACING REINS,
STIRRUP LEATHERS, STIRRUP WEB, GRITHS, BITS, &c.
CURRY COMBS, NEAVE COMBS, HORSE DANDY & SPOKE BRUSHES, BURNISHERS,
CHAMOISE LEATHERS, HARNESS OIL, HARNESS COMPOSITION, HARNESS POLISH,
SADDLE PASTE, BOOT-TOP FLUID, MELLONIAN CREAM,
RIDING and JOCKEY BOOTS, BOOT-TOPS.

JANE CRAWFORD & Co.

Hongkong, 10th November, 1891. [1158]

MOUTRIE ROBINSON & CO.

THE PIANO, ORGAN AND MUSIC WAREHOUSE,
UNDER HONGKONG HOTEL,
and at London, Shanghai, Kobe and Yokohama.

PIANOS SPECIALLY MADE FOR THIS CLIMATE AND GUARANTEED.

MONTHLY PAYMENTS OR HIRE.

TUNING—REPAIRS.

OLD PIANOS TAKEN IN EXCHANGE.

CRUICKSHANK & CO., LD.,
FAMILY AND DISPENSING CHEMISTS,
AND
Commission Agents.

KOLA WINE (VAN HARGAN).
Tonic, Stimulant and RESTORATIVE, unequalled as a Restorative of the Digestive
Organs. It expels the Mucous and Phlegmatic humors, and Stimulates the Circulatory
and Nervous Systems.

DOSE:—A Wine Glass Full with each Meal.

VINA COCA.
A Wine Glass Full with each Meal.

STING SCOTCH LEATHER HONEY \$1 per bottle.
Hongkong, 1st September, 1891. [1158]

Intimations.

WANTED.

ENGLISH CLERK seeks situation in Hongkong or elsewhere. Thorough Shorthand Writer in French and English languages, also good Spelling Correspondent. Expert typewriter. Considerable experience in Parisian and London firms. Good testimonials. Disengaged shortly.

"STENO."
Hongkong Telegraph Office.
Hongkong, 14th November, 1891. [1161]

ST. ANDREW'S BALL.

IN anticipation of the forthcoming BALL, the practice of Reels and the Caledonian Quadrilles will be held in the St. Andrew's Hall, City Hall, at 5.30 p.m., on FRIDAY, the 20th inst.

J. H. STEWART-LOCKHART,
Hon. Secretary.
St. Andrew's Society.
Hongkong, 14th November, 1891. [1159]

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

NOTICE.

SPECIAL PRACTICES will be held on THURSDAY, the 19th, and SATURDAY, the 21st inst., between 3 and 4 p.m. Proposed Members of the Hongkong Rifle Association will be held in the Rifle Match (fixed for THURSDAY, 20th inst.) are urgently requested to attend.

ED. ROBINSON,
Acting Hon. Secretary.
Hongkong, 14th November, 1891. [1161]

CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

ADJUSTMENT OF BONUS FOR THE YEAR 1890.

SHAREHOLDERS are hereby requested to send in to this Office a List of their Contributions of Premiums for the year ending 31st December last, in order that the proportion of Profit for that year to be paid as Bonus to Contributors may be arranged. Returns not sent in before the 30th instant will be made up by the Company, and no subsequent claims or alterations will be allowed.

By Order of the Directors,
JAS. B. COUGHRIE,
Secretary.
Hongkong, 2nd November, 1891. [1158]

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

TO AERATED WATER MANUFACTURERS AND OTHERS.

NOTICE is hereby given that all AERATED WATER BOTTLES and SYPHONS bearing the Company's Name and Trade Mark are the property of the Company, and that any Manufacturer using the same, or any Person or Persons other than the Company, in the use of the same, in violation of the same, will be proceeded against as the law directs.

A. H. MANCILL,
Secretary.
Hongkong, 18th August, 1891. [1152]

BOARD AND LODGING.

VACANCIES for GENTLEMEN BOARDERS, at 79, Wyndham Street. Apply to Mrs. SWANSTON.

Hongkong, 10th September, 1891. [1150]

MIKE COAL MINING COMPANY,
(LARGEST COLLIERIES IN JAPAN).

THE Undersigned are always prepared to supply with MIKE COAL in bunkers of the Steamers coming in any place in the harbour at short notice. FRESH COAL always on hand, and therefore quality guaranteed.

Contract for supplies for six months or longer can be arranged, and for prices and terms Apply to

MITSUI BUSSAN KAISHA,
Sole Agents.

Tel. Add.—"Mitsui" Hongkong.
Hongkong, 31st October, 1891. [1152]

DENTISTRY.

FIRST CLASS WORKMANSHIP AND MODERATE FEES.

M. R. WONG TAI FONG,
Surgeon Dentist,
(Formerly articled Apprentice, and latterly assistant to Dr. ROGERS).

HAS REMOVED TO THE BANK BUILDINGS, QUEEN'S ROAD, (above Messrs. Danks Bros. of China, Ltd.).

CONSULTATION FREE.
Hongkong, 27th July, 1891. [1151]

Shipping.

STEAMERS.

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY & TAIWANFOO. THE Company's Steamship.

"THALES" will be despatched for the above Ports TO-MORROW, the 17th inst., at Daylight.

For Freight or Passage, apply to DOUGLAS LAFRAIK & Co., General Managers.

Hongkong, 14th November, 1891. [1147]

"MOGUL" LINE OF STEAMERS.

FOR SHANGHAI, KODE & YOKOHAMA. THE Steamship.

"CHAZEL" will be despatched as above on or about FRIDAY, the 20th inst.

For Freight or Passage, apply to DODWELL, CARLILL & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 14th November, 1891. [1145]

Shipping.

STEAMERS.

"SHIRE" LINE OF STEAMERS. FOR HAVRE, LONDON, HAMBURG AND ANTWERP.

THE Steamship "BRECONSHIRE" Captain Jackson, will be despatched as above on WEDNESDAY, the 18th inst., at 4 p.m., instead of as previously advertised.

For Freight or Passage, apply to DODWELL, CARLILL & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 12th November, 1891. [1153]

AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN ALLOYD'S STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

STEAM FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO, AND BOMBAY.

Having connection with Company's Mail Steamers to ADEN, SUEZ, PORT SAID, TRIESTE, VENICE & FLORENCE.

THE Company's Steamship "MELPOMENE" Captain A. Mills, will be despatched as above on SATURDAY, the 21st inst., at Noon.

(Taking Cargo at, through rates, to CALCUTTA, MADRAS, PERSIAN GULF, BLACK SEA, LEBANT, and ADRIATIC PORTS.)

Cargo will not be received on board after 3 P.M. prior to date of sailing.

For further information as to Passage and Freight, apply to

DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co., Hongkong, 7th November, 1891. [1159]

PORTLAND LINE OF STEAMERS.

FOR HONOLULU, VICTORIA, B.C., AND PORTLAND (OREGON), VIA JAPAN PORTS.

(Taking through Cargo to PACIFIC COAST PORTS, also to INLAND and ATLANTIC PORTS, connecting at PORTLAND with the OREGON RAILWAY and NAVIGATION COMPANY, and UNION PACIFIC RAILWAYS.)

THE Steamship "BATAVIA" Captain Hall, will be despatched as above on MONDAY, the 23rd inst., at Noon.

For Freight or Passage, apply to GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 14th November, 1891. [1148]

Mails.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAYS ROYAL MAIL STEAMERS.

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG, 1891.

(SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.)

Empress of India, Tuesday... Dec. 8th.
Empress of Japan, Tuesday... Jan. 5th.
Empress of China, Tuesday... Feb. 2nd.

THE R. M. S. "EMPERESS OF INDIA," 5000 tons, Captain O. P. Marshall, R.N.R., sailing at Noon, on TUESDAY, the 8th Dec., with Her Majesty's Mails, will proceed to VANCOUVER, via SHANGHAI, Inland Sea, KODE and YOKOHAMA.

RATES OF PASSAGE. (In Mexican Dollars.) FROM HONGKONG, FIRST CLASS.

TO

Vancouver, Victoria, Esquimaux, New Westminster, B.C.,
Portland, Ore., San Francisco, Wash.,
Portland, Ore., San Francisco, Wash.,
Winnipeg, Man.,
To Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Minn.,
Chicago, Ill., Kansas City, St. Louis, Mo.,
Milwaukee, Wis.,
Detroit, Mich.,
Cleveland, Columbus, O.,
Hamilton, London, Toronto, Ont.,
Buffalo, Niagara Falls, N.Y.,
Kingston, Ottawa, Que., Montreal, Quebec, Que.,
New York, Albany, Troy, Rochester, N.Y.,
Baltimore, Md., Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Pa.,
Washington, D. C., Boston, Mass., Portland, Me.,
Halifax, N.S., St. John, N.B.,
Liverpool and London via L.

Paris, via Liverpool and London.
Havre, via Liverpool and London.
Bremen, Hamburg.

2nd class steamer and 1st class on rail, and 2nd class steamer and rail, also Steamer Fares and Rates to other places, quoted on application.

The Steamers call at Victoria to land and embark passengers.

Return Tickets.—Time limit for prepaid return ticket is reckoned from date of issue to date of re-embarking at Vancouver.

Through Passage Tickets granted to England, France, and Germany by all trans-Atlantic lines of steamers.

Special rates (first-class only) are granted to Missionaries, members of the Naval, Military, Diplomatic, and Civil Service, to European Officers in service of China and Japan, and to Government officials.

Passengers by this line have the option of proceeding Overland by the Southern Pacific and Connecting Lines, Central Pacific, Northern Pacific or Canadian Pacific Railways.

Return Tickets.—First Class.—Prepaid return tickets to San Francisco will be issued at following rates:—

4 months.....\$137.50
12 months.....\$293.75

Time is reckoned from date of issue to date of re-embarking at San Francisco.

Passengers, who have paid full fare, re-embarking at San Francisco for China or Japan (or vice versa) within one year will be allowed a discount of 10 per cent. from Return Fare.

Through Bills of Lading issued for transportation to Yokohama and other Japan Ports, to San Francisco, to Atlantic and Inland Cities of the United States, via Overland Railways, to Havana, Trinidad, and Demerara, and to ports in Mexico, Central and South America, by the Company's and connecting Steamers.

Freight will be received on board until 5 P.M. the day previous to sailing. Parcel Packages will be received at the Office until 5 P.M. same day.

All Parcel Packages should be marked to address in full, value of same is required.

Consular Invoices to accompany Cargo destined to Ports beyond San Francisco, in the United States, should be sent to the Company's Office in Sealed Envelopes, addressed to the Collector of Customs at San Francisco.

For further information as to Passage and Freight, apply to the Agency of the Company, No. 73, Queen's Road Central.

J. S. VAN BUREN, Agent.
Hongkong, 31st October, 1891. [1147]

Mails.

OCCIDENTAL AND ORIENTAL STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

TAKING CARGO AND PASSENGERS TO JAPAN, THE UNITED STATES, MEXICO, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA, AND EUROPE.

THE OVERLAND RAILWAYS, AND ATLANTIC AND OTHER CONNECTING STEAMERS.

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.

Oceanic.....Tuesday 8th Dec.
Galle.....Thursday 31st Dec.
Belge.....Saturday 23rd Jan., 1892.

THE Steamship "OCEANIC" will be despatched for San Francisco, via Yokohama, on TUESDAY, the 8th December, at 1 P.M. Connection being made at Yokohama with Steamers from Shanghai and Japan Ports.

RATES OF PASSAGE. From Hongkong, First-class.

To San Francisco, Vancouver, Victoria, Esquimaux, New Westminster, Port Townsend, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, O.,
To Liverpool and London.....\$25.00
To Paris and Bremen.....\$45.00
To Havre and Hamburg.....\$35.00

Through Passage Tickets granted to England, France, and Germany by all trans-Atlantic lines of steamers.

Special rates (first-class only) are granted to Missionaries, members of the Naval, Military, Diplomatic and Civil Service, to European Officers in service of China and Japan, and to Government officials.

Passengers by this line have the option of proceeding Overland by the Southern Pacific and Connecting Lines, Central Pacific, Northern Pacific or Canadian Pacific Railways.

Return Tickets.—First Class.—Prepaid return tickets to San Francisco will be issued at following rates:—

4 months.....\$137.50
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J. S. VAN BUREN, Agent.
Hongkong, 12th November, 1891. [1147]

U. S. MAIL LINE.

PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY THROUGH TO NEW YORK, VIA OVERLAND RAILWAYS, AND TOUCHING AT YOKOHAMA, AND SAN

Intimations.

DAKIN BROS. OF CHINA, LIMITED, CHEMISTS, &c.

SELECTION FROM WINE & SPIRIT LIST.
C L A R E T.

per case of 12 qts. 24 pts.

VINO ORDINAIRE—An excellent light breakfast wine.....\$ 5.00

St. GERMAIN—a pure light wine with a decided character.....\$5.00

St. ESTEPHE—a light dinner wine.....\$ 6.00

St. JULIEN—a good dinner wine with more body.....\$ 8.00

CHATEAU LIVIAN 1884.....\$12.00

" BARTON LANGCA
—a rare vintage claret, 1875.....\$14.00

S H E R R Y.

per case per bottle

VINO GENEROSO—a generous round wine, *green seal*.....\$ 6.00 \$2.60

VINO DE PASTO—a medium dry wine with delicate flavour, *red seal*.....\$10.00 \$1.00

AMONTILLADO—a high class natural wine for connoisseurs of Sherry, *yellow seal*.....\$12.00 \$1.10

DELICIOSO—the very finest sherry procurable, 6 years in bottle.....\$14.00 \$1.25

Nos. 22 & 24, **QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, LONDON, HONGKONG AND AMOY.**

A. S. WATSON & CO., L.D.

WE invite attention to our first supplies
OF
CONFECTIONERY AND CHRISTMAS GOODS

RECEIVED BY THE LAST MAIL.

JORDAN. ALMONDS, NOUGAT, BUTTER SCOTCH, ASSORTED TOFFEES, DRAGEES, PRALINES, and a large selection of PURE CONFECTIONERY from the leading Manufacturers.

CADBURY'S SPECIAL CHOCOLATE CREMES.

FINE, APRICOT, CHERRY, LIME, GUAVA, and other FRUIT JELLIES in great variety.

TOM SMITH'S CHRISTMAS CRACKERS.

COLOURED OPALS mounted in Flush, representing favourite subjects.

A large assortment of **ENGLISH and JAPANESE CHRISTMAS CARDS**, of handsome and artistic designs, suitable to all tastes, and at moderate prices.

A. S. WATSON & CO., L.D.
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,
ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.
Hongkong, 1st November, 1891.

BIRTH.

At Peking, on the 3rd November, 1891, the wife of J. TRAVERS SMITH, of a son.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1891.

TELEGRAMS.

THE AMERICAN ELECTIONS:
LONDON, November 5th.

The elections at present taking place in the United States indicate, that the Democrats will be victorious.

Mr. McKinley has been elected Governor of the State of Ohio, defeating the Democratic and Free-Coinage candidate.

New York's Senators remain Democratic.

RIOTS IN IRELAND.

During the visit of Mr. Dillon, M.P., to Waterford, several sanguinary faction fights took place and it is reported that 150 persons were injured.

HURRICANE IN THE CHANNEL.
November 13th.

A severe hurricane has occurred in the English Channel. Numerous wrecks have taken place on the coast of Kent and Sussex; four persons have perished.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THE U. S.S. cruiser Alert arrived here yesterday from Amoy.

A Regular meeting of Perseverance Lodge No. 1165, E.C., will be held in Freemason Hall, Zealand Street, this evening, at 8.30 o'clock precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.

CORVETTE *Tenrio*, Captain Eudo, that from Japan on the 6th inst.

AN Imperial decree has been issued granting to Liu Yu-chi, late Governor of Shansi, now

CAPTAIN F. ASHTON, brother of the President of the British Mercantile Marine Officers' Association, instructed by Messrs. Denny & Co.,

insom, instructed by Messrs. Denny & Co., defended. The following is a summary of the

JOTTINGS ON SIAM.

The Japanese corvette *Tenryo*, Captain Edo, arrived at Shanghai from Japan on the 9th inst.

H.M.S. *Eden*, from Ningpo, and *Peacock*, from Chefoo, returned to Shanghai on the 9th inst.

A YOUNG Chinaman was run over by a tram-car at Singapore on the evening of the 5th inst. and terribly mangled.

SERKANT-MAJOR W. D. Braidwood has been promoted Lieutenant in the Hongkong Volunteer Force, *vice* Henry J. Holmes, resigned.

It is notified in Saturday's *Gazette* that Mr. G. H. Bateson, who resigned his duties as headmaster of the Victoria College on the 31st ult.

The returns of the number of visitors to the City Hall Museum for the week ended November 15th are:—Europeans, 182; Chinese, 1,764; total, 1,946.

A NATIVE paper reports several failures of Chinese bankers in Amoy, and says that even the banks in Shansi are feeling the effects of the present bad times.

The Canadian Pacific liner *Empress of India*, Capt. O. P. Marshall, R.N.R., arrived in harbour from Vancouver, via Yokohama and Shanghai, shortly after 8 o'clock this morning.

K'UEI-CHUN, a Manchui, who for the past two years has been Provincial Treasurer of the Province, has been appointed Governor of Shansi, *vice* Liu Ju-chi, deceased.

We are informed by the Agent of the Messageries Maritimes Co. that the Company's steamer *Melbourne*, with the next French mail, left Saigon yesterday at midnight, for this port.

Mrs. Snooks (a lamb) Oh, John, I hear you have failed! Oh, dear, what shall we do? Snooks (a Hongkong Negotiator). It's a right, old girl! I'll clear \$50,000 out of the transaction!

Whether the typhoon has gone to Jericho, Kamschatka, or Timbuctoo, we wot not, but anyhow it is not in the China Sea, for Dr. Doberck reports to-day that the barometer is rising, and gradients are steep for northern winds.

Magistrate—What is your name, Sir?
Unterrified Scot—Donald Malcolm Ross MacDonald, your Honor.
Magistrate—What nationality, Sir?
Mac (after a gasp of astonishment)—A German, your Honor.
(Magistrate faints and is carried out of court.)

MR. HEARSON, late an engineer in the Royal Navy, whose desertion from the Service created considerable stir at home a few months back, left Shanghai for Nanking the other day to take up his appointment as Instructor in the Engineering Department of the Chinese Imperial Naval College.

Missionary—At Canton—Sarah Guinevere what have we for dinner to-day?
Missus—That piece of cold boiled mutton.
Missionary—Well, Madame, you can say it's grace, but I will go along to the Shamoen Hotel and dine!

At the Magistracy to-day Charles Short, sergeant was prosecuted by Inspector Lybght, of the Naval Yard Police, for stealing \$210, entrusted to him in virtue of his employment at the Naval Yard Police canteen, on Oct. 31st and Nov. 15th. No evidence was taken, and the case was remanded until Wednesday.

It has been an open secret in the colony some days past that Mr. H. H. Joseph, agent of the F. O. C. S. M. Co. at Shanghai, would succeed Mr. E. L. Woodin as Superintendent of this port. We understand, however, that appointment will not be announced until after the return of Mr. Woodin from Japan.

THE *Strait Times* of the 6th inst. remarks that "the market in Raub and Jelibus is sensitive with buyers and few sellers." The Hongkong market in these stocks is likewise sensitive but at all events as far as Jelibus are concerned there are few buyers and plenty of sellers. The attempted "boom" in Jelibus, engineered from Singapore, completely misfired in this colony.

The Band of the A. & S. Highlanders will play the following programme at the Officers' Mess to-morrow, commencing at 8 p.m.:—
March "On top" Mendelssohn.
Valse "The Grandeur" Waldteufel.
Selection "Rip Van Winkle" Planquette.
Cortese "Return and Stay" Alessi.
Selection "Remosa, of England" Godfrey.

ANOTHER attempt to smuggle ammunition into China was discovered on Saturday. A thousand rounds of ball cartridge and 80 boxes of percussion caps were stowed on a junk for shipment to China without the requisite consent and approval of the authorities, and a Chinaman connected with the attempt was brought before the Wise-to-day, convicted, and fined \$100, which was paid down at once.

AN interesting tourney at American bowls was played on the 12th and 14th inst. between teams representing the Hongkong and German Clubs respectively. The conditions were eight a side, every man to roll twice on each of four alleys, the alleys of both Clubs being scored. The bowling was not of a very high class, although unusually low and especially the Britling was won by a majority of pins, totalling 915 to their opponents 872.

A JINRIKESHA containing a European was going along Queen's Road on Saturday night amid the crowd that throngs the narrowest part, owing to insufficient protection for the wheel, turned, coolies, man, and vehicle, fell into one of the Government pitfalls. The men were taken very badly hurt. It is not expected that Government will take any step, even if European die, as he was not an official of Colonial Service.

As the Kowloon passenger launch, *Morn Star*, was backing out from Pedder's Wharf yesterday morning on her way over to pediculus with a full cargo of church-goers, stern came in contact with a sampam drawn to the after end of the launch *Kam Chun*, the result that two of the occupants of the sampam fell into the water and were gallantly rescued instantaneously. Damage to sampam amounting to \$6 has been paid, so there'll be no food for alligators this trip.

MR. KESWICK had better come back. household goods are being removed, and stays away much longer he will on his return have to put up at the Sallors' Home as a destitute British subject. One felonious removal of property was detected in time and formed subject of a Magisterial investigation. Wong Tsau, cowherd, was sent to prison for month for stealing a "puncher" and a pascadero, Mr. Keswick's property, from stables. Let the good work go on!

An Imperial decree has been issued granting to Lieut. Jui-chai, late Governor of Shanai, now deceased, all the honours due to his exalted rank.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Señor Enrique Orús has been officially recognised as being provisionally in charge of the Spanish consulate at this port.

A REGULAR meeting of Victoria Lodge, No. 3026, will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zealand Street, on Saturday, the 31st instant, at 8.30 for p.m. precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.

We observe that in a Government notification soliciting tenders for an extension to the Magistracy, it is expressly stipulated that the contractor will not be permitted to carry on the work on Sundays. Good!

THE body of a foreigner named Edwin George, a steward on board the steamer *Poyang*, who was drowned off the Associated Wharves, (Shanghai), was recovered on the afternoon of the 9th inst., a short distance from where he fell into the water.

IT is said that the Russian army officers are known to be anxious for a fight, and that the present Czar, like his predecessors, has always great respect for army sentiment. But the time is not yet, although the world is resting on a lumbering volcano.

THE Stamp revenue for the month of October totalled \$14,976 as against \$16,417.13 for the same period last year, thus showing a falling off of \$1,431.13. Brokers' notes, share transfers and charter parties accounted for the major portion of the deficiency.

THE *Hupao* reports that on the 1st of this month, two secret society members, Li and Nien, were decapitated at Wuchang. Nien pretended that he wished to execute Li Tsoai in Kiangsu and lived in grand style. Both men were large in stature and of great strength.

THE football teams of "G" and "H" Companies of the A. & S. Highlanders will meet for the third time (the two previous games having been drawn) in the contest for the St. Andrew's Society's medals, at the Happy Valley to-morrow afternoon. Play will commence at 4.15 sharp. The names of the opposing teams have already been published.

HEER Goetze, a well-known tenor, had to travel from Cologne to Frankfurt and appear the same evening in "Lohengrin." He just arrived at the wings in time to "go on." After vanquishing the villain who aspired here, he embraced the Elsa of the occasion. As he did not know her, he whispered, while holding her fondly in his arms, "Allow me to have the honour of introducing myself to you. My name is Goetze, of Cologne."

THE *Dell Courant* of the 1st October says that the Dell Steamship Company has lost 50% of its capital and that a meeting of shareholders has been called to decide whether the affairs of the company shall be thrown into liquidation. The *Courant* considers that the stoppage of this company would be a bad thing for Dell and suggests that the merchants of the place should combine to put the concern on its feet again.

THE *Hankow* correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News*, writing on the 6th inst., says that the Foreign Defence Committee there had arranged to have a parade the previous evening, which so alarmed Viceroy Chang Chih-tung that he telegraphed to the Tsinan Yamen, who complained to the Foreign Ministers. The Ministers telegraphed to Hankow to ask why the foreigners were about to attack Wuchang. The parade was countermanded!

THE twins of Lacona, rivals of the famous Siamese pair, were expected to arrive in New York last month. They are known as the Tocci brothers, and were born in Lacona, Italy, on July 4th, 1895. They have one body, one pair of legs, four arms and two heads. One head is of fair complexion, resembling the mother, and speaks Italian and French. The other head is of dark complexion, like the father, and speaks German and English.

THE *Singapore Free Press* says that some enterprising Chinese there are talking of introducing back garricks to Hongkong, but thinking that with "riches and omibuses to contend with the prospect of the garricks receiving sufficient patronage to make them pay is not very promising. We beg to differ from our correspondent's view. A limited number of garricks, properly managed, would probably yield a handsome return.

THE *Kobe Chronicle* reports that Mr. W. G. Johnson, lately appointed manager of the Higo Hotel, shot himself fatally at eight o'clock in the morning of the 8th inst., at the Jiyutei Hotel, Osaka. He left the Higo Hotel on Saturday the 7th at 2 p.m. with the intention of going to Arima, and on Sunday returns were received from there which stated that he was about to commit suicide. His life. From Arima he must have proceeded to Osaka, where the rash act was committed.

HERE is another very pretty case which we cordially commend to the careful attention of Mr. Mitchell-Innes. An excise officer stopped a man named Mong-kok yesterday and asked him to search him. When the officer had gone away he wanted to see him. When he saw him he was well so. Anyhow the poor unprotected female made a fight for it, and raised Cain to such good effect that a crowd gathered and the officer was nearly lynched. Serve him right. Why it was "nearly," and not "completely." Then he had the audacity to prosecute the woman for obstructing him in the execution of his "Duty!" A brother excise officer who was present swore that the man made no attempt to get the woman to a police station for search, never mentioned such a proceeding. Nor was the attempted search made under the supervision of a European sergeant. The charge of obstruction was of course dismissed; but who is to be done with the officer? Will Dr. Ho kindly note?

AN extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Jelebu Mining and Trading Company, Limited, took place yesterday (the 28th inst.) in Singapore, on the 7th, for the purpose of confirming a resolution passed at an extraordinary general meeting on the 23rd October as follows:—

"That the articles of association be altered by the following words being substituted for the first sentence in article 88 ending with the words 'an additional \$10' namely:—

"The remuneration of each director for his services shall be the sum of fifty dollars per month for every complete calendar month he performs his office."

Mr. J. M. J. occupied the chair and there were present Messrs. Reid, Heinz, Schult, Lin, Eng Keng, Naibon, Feichter and others. The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and Mr. S. has suggested that there should be inserted in the minutes of his speech the words—that the payment to directors should take effect from the beginning of this half year which was done, and the minutes were confirmed. The resolution was then put to the meeting and confirmed.

PRINCE F. ASHTON, brother of the President of the British Mercantile Marine Officers' Association, Messrs. Douglas, Laiprak & Co's agent at Amul, arrived here by the *Empress of India* this morning.

CHINTSE contractor, said to be pretty extensively patronised by the local Government, is accused of having been victimising a number of residents of Wing Lok Street and other thoroughfares in that neighbourhood, by charging them for his services for work conducted on Government accounts, and giving them a bogus receipt therefor. Several of the contractor's victims have discovered the trick in time, however, and are going to recover their money and 'show up' the clever trickster. We refrain from publishing details, as we learn that the aged sharp practice will shortly form the subject of more or less interesting proceedings in law courts.

We find the following in the *Strait Times* and give it for whatever it may be worth:—
 "Messrs. Becher, Louis & Co., the managers of the Penang P-hang Company, Ltd., have just received information from the mines that the result of the October crushing is as follows:—
 370 tons quartz have been milled, yielding a total of 175 ounces of gold bullion, being at the rate of 5 dwts. 11 grs. of gold to the ton of quartz.
 The amount of gold in the gold dust remaining in the concentrate which has been collected for further treatment. These concentrates assay 17 oz. 17 dwts. of gold to the ton of concentrates.
 The statement as to the richness of the concentrates, is made on the assay of a sample. It is not known how many tons of concentrates there are.
 In this part of the world, where the various malleable and depart at all hours of the day, and apparently without any effort being made to possess the possibility of delaying a boat half an hour so as to save a week's waiting for the next, late postage stamps "are a constant necessity, most civilised places, "late fees" are either half or the whole of the original postage, or they are more. A half-ounce letter goes to Europe for seven cents; late, seven more? *Yes, yes, yes.* This is a matter of little interest to many—for instance, to a military man, or to a lawyer, or to a registrar, or to an engineer of public works; so that the Official Members of Council never think of it. The Treasurer probably does, with a chuckle. But the shipping community, and the merchants of the Colony find it means dollars every day, and hundreds a month, and thousands a year. Now, if the fee could be equalled with the original postage, it would bring Hongkong one respect up to the level of other places all over the world. Fancy that!

The members of the Hongkong Rifle Association had a capital afternoon's outing on Saturday, although it is to be regretted that only nine sportsmen took part in the competition. The weather was moderately favorable for good marksmanship, but nothing very exceptional was done in the way of tall scoring. At 200 yards the steady and improving of Laman, Mr. E. Col. Sgt. Boyd, Col. Sgt. Mack, and Col. Sgt. Robertson, and at 500 the former again led the way with a very creditable 32, Mr. Watson being correct with 30. At 600 yards Watson turned the tables, piling up 32 in good form, Col. Sgt. Boyd taking second honors with 30. Col. Sgt. Mack, Mr. Robinson, and Mr. Watson were the winners of the "spoons" at the three ranges in the order named, and Watson's aggregate of 62 for the Cup was also the highest, but being handicapped this honour fell to Col. Sgt. Boyd with a total of 58. The following are the leading half-dozen scores:—

	200	300	400	500	600	Total
Mr. Watson	32	30	32	30	32	86
Col. Sgt. Mack	30	32	30	32	30	84
Col. Sgt. Boyd	30	32	30	32	30	82
Col. Sgt. Robertson	30	32	30	32	30	82
Col. Sgt. Mack	30	32	30	32	30	82
Col. Sgt. Mack	30	32	30	32	30	82

It is with extreme reluctance that we have again to call attention to the ridiculous vapourings of the shallow-brained buffoon who every Saturday night in the *China Mail*, above the signature of "Brownie," makes himself the laughing-stock of everyone—the number is severely limited—who reads his childish trash. The assertion, apparently made in all seriousness, that the steamer *Lightning* discovered an unknown rock, by striking it, when coming into harbour through the Sulphur Channel, is a misrepresentation of the most wantonly mischievous description. Every man in this colony who has the slightest acquaintance with seafaring matters, knows quite well that there are no unknown rocks in Sulphur Channel, and that every channel in the vicinity of the island. Had any such discovery occurred in Sulphur Channel, the captain of the *Lightning* would at once have applied for a court of inquiry, to show that any blame for the accident his vessel met with, lay with the naval authorities who surveyed the harbour, and not with himself. Besides, any special reference to the *Lightning's* mishap, until some definite and reliable particulars had been made public, was in shocking taste. "Brownie" richly deserves keel-hauling.

The Secretary of State "drops down" on the local Government for having introduced the electric light in the streets of Hongkong without first having obtained his gracious permission. In a despatch dated the 6th October, addressed to the Officer Administrator, the Government, Lord Knutsford says:—
 "It is regretted that annual cost of lighting the streets will be increased by 200,000 cents, by the partial introduction of Electric Lighting, and I consider that this large expenditure should not have been incurred without obtaining the previous sanction of the Secretary of State. I am aware that the estimated increase in the assessed taxes will more than cover this increased expenditure, but in view of the heavy outlay on other works of local improvement, especially the Water and Drainage works, now in hand, it is a question whether it would not have been wise to postpone the introduction of Electric Lighting for which no urgent necessity has, so far as I am aware, been shown to exist."
 This is all very fine, but it will perhaps be admitted, even by the "official phalanx," that the Hongkong community are in a better position than Lord Knutsford to decide whether or not electric lighting was required for our streets. The public pay the piper and have a right to select the tune. If Hongkong possessed a Municipal Council, these petty complaints would never occur; his splendid lordship would very properly be told to mind his own business.

SUPREME COURT.
 IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.
 (Before Chief Justice Sir J. Russell, and a Jury.)
 BROOK'S SEWING COTTON.
 In this action commenced this morning, and to be continued to-morrow, Messrs. Jonas Brook and Brothers, the Hongkong agents, Stolteizer and Hirst, sued the China Export, Import, and Bank Company of Hongkong, for infringing and fraudulently imitating the trade mark, and otherwise copying the outward appearance of Brook's Sewing Cotton. Mr. Francis, instructed by Messrs. Johnson, Rylands and Messer, was for the plaintiff, and Mr. Row

[illegible]

JOTTINGS ON SIAM.

III.—COMMERCE.

The commerce of this kingdom, consisting of its exports and over-land trade, considerable as it is, has by no means reached the gigantic proportions which it might and should have attained long ago. But there has nevertheless been a considerable development of late years, with prospect of more, or at least rapid increase especially in respect to exports within the next few years.

The aggregate value of exports and imports during four years ending 31st December, 1890, was as follows:—

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
Rs.	£	£	£
1887	7,657,707	2,591,002	10,248,709
1888	8,182,003	2,721,671	10,903,674
1889	9,191,257	2,786,280	11,977,537
1890	7,631,020	2,209,621	9,840,641

An increase of 40 per cent. in the exports of rice as compared with those of the previous year may be accounted for by the increase in the production of rice, the staple export, which rose in fact 78 per cent. of the total export of the country.

In two Oriental British colonies, Hongkong and Singapore, are the chief consumers of Siam's rice. It may be proved by the following official statistics of the distribution of rice to various parts of the world whether the "free-grain" was shipped from Bangkok last year:—

Place of Export.	Tons.
Bangkok	277,690
Singapore	17,760
Hongkong	73,672
Other ports	6,053
Sumatra	3,984
Java	869
Malacca	112
Penang	79
Ceylon	5
Total	479,660

It is evident that, tested by the rice or the volume of trade, Siam holds her own with all the ports of Lower Burma, except Ceylon, in respect to commercial progress of the past 30 years. But Rangoon and other regions dependent on it have progressed twice to three times as rapidly in that the principal progress being made in the province of Pegu, while its great delta plains (the Irawadi and the Sittoung). Careful examination reveals but one cause for the difference in progress: The delta plains to the north and Bangkok districts, and Maelmaia Akrah, in Burma, are just as rich as those of Rangoon, and water communication is as perfect in respect to the one part of India as the other. The markets of the world, are equally accessible. Furthermore the population of millions of inhabitants of Pegu are more industrious than the 10 to 12,000,000 of whom nearly half are Chinamen. And the same may be said of Cochin-China, where the population of Siam is less than it is in Burma, yet, the reason for the differences, then, is partly to both: That in the province of Pegu has, according to official returns, been a steady and steady expenditure on public works ever thirty years, for the development of the resources of the province. From £50,000 to £100,000 have been spent yearly in the whole of Pegu—probably one half or more of it on irrigation or protective work, equally distributed throughout the country; but almost all on such engineering works, such as embankments, canals, roads and bridges, to open up the remote parts of the country, have been far more liberally bestowed on Pegu than on any other of Burma. Since 1860 from £30,000 to £100,000 sterling have been spent by the same Government on such works in Pegu, besides fully £3,000,000 in the construction of railways. The self-governing provinces spend large sums annually in irrigation and fourth-rate country roads and improvement works, such as bridges, embankments and drains; in addition to the same sum expended by municipalities such as Rangoon Town Council. On the Irawadi embankments some £500,000 have been expended, reclaiming over 2,000 square miles, 250,000 acres of splendid agricultural land—undoubtedly are some of them that Maobach embankment, on an island of the delta, reclaimed 1,000 square miles at a nominal cost of £100,000, and is now annually returning to the State more than that sum in land-taxes and rice revenue. The final result is that the value of the produce of the province averages about £4 per annum.

Siam, however, the expenditure on works for the development of the resources of the country almost up to the present time, though it must be stated a contract to build a Railway from Bangkok to Korat, distance of 168 miles has just been entered into by an English firm of contractors, Messrs. Murray, Campbell & Co., and a branch from the capital to the town of Paknam, 100 miles near the mouth of the Menam river, is now in course of construction by a French company floated in Bangkok in 1881. Canals exist about Ayutthia (the old city) and Bangkok for the benefit of those places; but the Menam is united to the Mekong River by a small canal, which scarcely deserves the name of order. Another canal runs south from Bangkok for about forty miles. These "channels of commerce" could and should be multiplied with immense advantage. Higher trade has developed in Siam by the unassisted resources of the country, which are, without question, sufficient. Had the Siamese Government acted as much, or even half as much, as they do on public works for the development of their dominions as has been so wisely done in Pegu, the volume of trade would have been tenfold greater.

But it is not so simple as never before unless a clean sweep be made of the old and century who, under the rule of loyalty to their foreign, are doing incalculable mischief intentionally fall to give of set to many of King's commands relating to the amelioration of the condition of his subjects. Such men traitors and should be dealt with severely—a strong hand" having been too long withheld.

As to revert to the exports, it is easy here some purposes if we dwell specially upon the rice crop.

THE RICE INDUSTRY OF SIAM.

In the past year has, it may be safely averred, been a good one for the agriculturist and the Government, whose interests are identical, though but few of them have sufficient knowledge to understand it. Agriculture poured down the lap of opulence fully 100,000,000 of bushels, which at 4 s. 6 d. per picul amounts to 1,000,000 tons. Besides this, tobacco, pepper, coffee, tea, steel, sugar, and ebony wood, and other products contributed largely to the national wealth. The amount of rice exported, it is added, aggregated 35,751 tons (falling short as compared with exports in 1889 of 44,111 tons), was a vital factor in the national financial health. The crops this year (1890) although badly somewhat frost-hail in 1889, will bring in a reward to farmers and middlemen. Were the crops affected by Government and consular protection, in preparation for improvements in the harvest of rice, the Government of Siam has been successful.

construction of irrigation works. It could not result in an immense increment of general business which would be conducive to the active circulation of money; stimulating enterprise and absorbing labour. It would also lead to closer, more civilised, and more harmonious relations between the country and the masses.

In some countries when the supply of grain is out of proportion to the demand, it leads to what is known as "labour mugging" and threatened if not actual outbreaks have been the result of general famine in the rice-growing countries of the East.

When granaries are full and labour unemployed the public safety must needs be in peril. A year of scanty crops and good prices is far better than one with enormous crops, held at the mercy of importing countries dictating as to terms of sale. But in Siam the latter argument does not apply at the present juncture for she can sell at good prices all she can produce and bring down to Bangkok, and great deal more being situated very favourably to supply China, the Straits, Burma, India and, as has often been the case, the markets of Europe.

The average annual rice crop of Siam is 3,000,000 tons, of which about 700,000 tons are consumed in the country leaving about 2,300,000 tons for export, which is not very much, after all. Surplus grain supplies a desirable theme to the untidying, untravelling public, but they are deplored by a serious political economist, and are rejected over by those States which cannot produce enough to feed their own people—China, for instance, where the export of rice is prohibited. But the farmers and the "powers that be" in Siam do not worry themselves about the question of surplus stocks for many years to come, but should, nevertheless, not lose sight of the fact with which many States are stubbornly confronted, notwithstanding the fascination of their acres of waving rice and wheat, that the export price of that grain settles, to a great extent, the price of the whole crop, and that such price is dictated by competition with surplus grain from other countries where labour has its least reward.

It must be borne in mind that the policy of those countries which do not raise sufficient food to supply their own populations, is to stimulate the production of "food-stuffs" in rice and other grain-producing countries, and bring as many sellers as possible in contact with their markets. But it can hardly be said that that policy will make much impression in Siam, Burma, or Cochinchina for very many years to come, for, as above shown, they do not produce more than enough to feed their own people, and the development of their natural resources properly attended to. Whilst pushing forward agricultural enterprise on southern neighbours should avoid what is commonly termed "blind zeal" for blind zeal in the production of raw material in any condition benefits another more than the producer, and is a system which belongs to primary conditions. Advanced commercial and trading peoples are unquestionably, acting more and more upon the principle of avoiding over-production of those things which compete for a market, and supply by enterprise and intelligence, the wants of which buyers compete. England, for instance, is a great consumer of raw materials, and by the application of a most intelligent industry she transforms that material into countless forms of utility and beauty, and carries these in her ships to all markets, taking payment largely in low-priced raw material, gold, and in exchange on London; meanwhile she sells other nations to till the soil and raising food for her artisans, mechanics and manufacturers.

But to return to rice. The crop is cared for and handled with comparative small expense. It may, moreover, be quickly marketed in Siam, either at points of production, in Bangkok, or in rising centres of commerce. Its adaptability is varied, and altogether in a marked degree it enriches the State. It is the old rice, if one may use the metaphor, of Siam. From the great and teeming rice belt it will feed transportation lines of railway and will create a constant stream of traffic to and from all parts of the kingdom, stimulating and supporting, through countless rural stations, business in all directions. In every sphere of labour, if the government is wise it will, like the managers of banks and commercial houses in Bangkok, launch out on no enterprise or business projects, nor have financial estimates prepared without special and studious consideration of the value and extent of this magnificent crop. Its relation to the future value of railway stocks, and to the distribution of manufactured goods of all kinds is most intimate and important. It is the crop which the financier and the merchant should take most thoughtfully into his calculations. It is the material of the great distributer of wealth, and, therefore, in a special sense, the general wealth. At present, the export demand of this cereal is unlimited, and Siam is chiefly dependent on the market of Hongkong and Singapore for its profitable disposal; indeed she is, to a small extent, indifferent as to "home bids." Its prolific yield will, when its cultivation becomes more general, supply the regions of the north and enable the farmer to turn his attention to the manufacture of silk, and other articles of commerce. It is a true and beneficent production. It will bring about constant and active exchange of commodities, putting in operation, under more or less fortunate conditions, from one end of the country to the other, the essential principle of commercial development; for it is a rule of political economy that industries be arranged in such manner that each can do that which he can best do, and then turn the aggregate of human labour and talent to the best results obtainable. Under such an appointment, not only is maximum prosperity promoted, but the sum of human happiness is increased and human capacity is directed in the direction of the highest enlightenment.

The system of trade in rice in Siam appears to prevent digested markets, for the surplus finds eager buyers either in the country districts or at Bangkok. It permits the farmer to sell, in most cases, wherever prompted to do so, either by his own interest or by necessity, without compelling him to make immediate shipment (unless he is in arrears with his taxes) and fairly bring him of all but enough to clear a bare existence until the next crop is gathered. It provides the farming communities with ready money, which in turn finds its way through the country store to merchants in the chief centres of trade; and, more than any measure, tends to keep the complex machinery of business in harmonious activity. To withdraw or destroy that system would, we fancy, be fatal to the process of the grain trade, check the circulation of money, lead to selling general merchandise on very long credit, increase business hazards, advance rates of interest, which are already exorbitant, cripple enterprise, and pave the way for financial disaster. But the system is by no means perfect; it can be improved and protection can, and should at once, be given to the farmers and boatmen, who are constantly attacked by Chinese and Siamese pirates who loot the rivers and creeks above Ayutthia, and who have been known to fire on passing vessels. These villains often take not only the boatmen and passengers' money, but their clothing also, and even pocketing the rice itself, it is merely necessary for the Government to give Commodore de Richelieu or Captain Andersen, or the general commander of the *Rajah Kumarn* of the naval department, full authority to enter

minate these dangerous marauders, and supply them with five or six hundred picked men from the fleet, and in less than six months there would be no trace of these skulking desperadoes on the Nile of Siam.

Finally, the Government should endeavour to maintain a commercial exchange, promote uniformity in the customs and usages of its merchants; foster principles of justice and equity in trade, and in courts of law; facilitate the speedy adjustment of business disputes; acquire wide knowledge of economics; and generally secure to its people the benefits of civilisation as soon as possible, "ere it be too late."

In the next article we shall deal with the import trade, shipping, the credit system which has resulted in considerable injury, possibly more or less permanent injury, to the trade of the country.

(To be continued)

A SINGAPORE LIBEL CASE.

McBreen v. The "Seng Poh."

This case was tried before Mr. Justice Goldney on the 4th inst. It was a claim for \$10,000 damages for alleged libel. Mr. Drew appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. B. Mathews for the defendant newspaper.

In opening the case, Mr. Drew stated that the plaintiff, Thomas Joseph McBreen, who resides at 210, Tanjong Pagar Road, Singapore, was a clerk in the employ of the Government, the late Mr. Francis "Green" was his wife, and the plaintiff's sister, Mrs. Josephine McBreen, was the daughter of the plaintiff's late father, and was his wife. The defendant newspaper, the *Seng Poh*, a daily Chinese paper published in Singapore. The alleged libel appeared in the issue of the 8th June last, and he submitted a copy of the Chinese paper containing the libel, purporting to be a Police Court report of a case of libel and assault between the plaintiff and a European woman.

It was alleged that the libel was written of the plaintiff, and published falsely and maliciously and with libellous and defamatory sense and meaning, so that the character and reputation of his clients had been exposed to contempt, and they had suffered great pain and anguish of mind. The plaintiff claimed \$10,000 damages, an injunction to restrain the defendant from similar publications, and such further relief as the case might require.

The defendant admitted printing and publishing the words in Chinese, but he did not admit that the translation into English was a true and accurate one. He also denied that he wrote, printed and published the words as set out in paragraph 3 of the meaning as therein alleged. Further he contended that the alleged libel was a report of the proceedings in the Police Court on the hearing of a charge of voluntarily causing hurt and theft brought against the plaintiff, published by Louisa Charles, published by him *bona fide*, without malice and in the public interest, as it was a matter of public concern.

Defendant did not admit that he was the author of the libel in respect of the said words, but he brought into Court the sum of \$100 and said that that amount was sufficient to meet plaintiff's claim. Now the material allegations were that Mrs. McBreen was a prostitute, and then there was what purported to be a description of the family. The charge against the wife of a man holding a Government position was a most serious one, and with regard to the other statements nothing of the kind occurred. As to the woman being a prostitute there was absolutely no justification as far as he could see.

Mr. Drew:—Undoubtedly! they could hardly have anything more insulting to any man than these words. There was no justification pleaded and there was none to any of the statements. What was pleaded was that it was a *bona fide* report of proceedings in a Court of Justice.

Mr. Mathews contended that the falsity of the libel must be proved.

Mr. Drew:—Not at all the libel is admitted in the defence.

Mr. Mathews:—The alleged libel, but we deny the innuendoes.

Mr. Drew:—Unless justification is pleaded it is not necessary to prove the falsity of the libel. This is laid down in *Ogden*, page 42.

After some further argument Mr. Drew decided to call evidence in support of the falsity of the libel, the first witness called being Jane Frances McBreen, the wife of the plaintiff.

She was a respectable woman, and she had, felt ashamed at what appeared in the papers. Everyone was laughing at her.

Cross-examined. She knew there was a dispute between her daughters and the European woman. She did not see the hair cut off, it was pulled. There was a little hair produced in Court. The objectionable character in the report was "she" and "a" and they asserted that she was a common woman.

Other evidence having been called, a Chinese witness, a sub-editor on the staff of the *Seng Poh*, in cross-examination by Mr. Drew stated that he had been the author of the libel, the copy being supplied by a man comparatively unknown to him. He put a few finishing touches to it, the heading "A Struggle between Tiresias," and he added the words now objected to, "she" and "a" as he thought that was a general expression for the word used by the respondent. He also added the part referring to the cutting off of hair with the scissors, as he thought it impossible that it could have been pulled out.

For the defence Mr. Mathews urged that the defendant had only been the proprietor of the *Seng Poh* for a short time, and at the time of the publication of the alleged libel he was not aware that the paragraph had been inserted. At the same time his client did not seek to avoid any responsibility, but he put upon him, but simply to show that there was no personal malice in the publication. Continuing, he said in this case there were undoubtedly two causes of action, one, or more properly two, of which one related to the daughters, and the other to Jane Frances McBreen. So far as the alleged libel related to the two girls he submitted that what took place in the Police Court was substantially what was given in the report. It could have been no ordinary case when two young girls for their first offences were sentenced to a week's imprisonment without the option of a fine, and that conclusion was borne out by the magistrate's notes which had been read in Court. His client wished him to say that he would be the very last man to intentionally injure an innocent woman, but when the other side failed to take a reasonable view of the case and claimed damages in \$10,000, there was no other course but to lay his case before the Court and claim privilege, as this was a report which came to his office in the ordinary way of business, and with regard to the second cause of action he said it had been proved that the words "she" and "a" were capable of bearing another meaning than the degrading construction put upon them by the plaintiff. They had it on the evidence of the sub-editor that he wished to substitute a more graceful expression; and that it might mean a single girl to a man. That was the meaning intended, and the plaintiff had

chosen to put the very worst construction possible upon the words in question.

On behalf of the plaintiff Mr. Drew said that acting on the advice of his learned friend defendant had mentioned for the first time that day the question of an apology for making use of those most objectionable words, and for that reason he would ask his Lordship to assess the damages heavier than he otherwise would do. He submitted that it was not a fit and accurate report of what took place in the Police Court, it could not but prejudice these people. The public would have a worse idea of the character of the girls than was really justified by the facts.

As regards the libel against the plaintiff Jane Frances McBreen, he contended that the justification had been set up. The defendant took up an impossible position that the objectionable words could not be interpreted in a bad sense, whereas they had evidence to the contrary. And seeing that the charge was so grave, as it reflected not only on a respectable woman, but on a woman in Mrs. McBreen's position, and considering the danger in the town, the whole business seemed to be conducted in a careless manner, the paragraph, supplied by an almost unknown contributor, being dashed up to suit the taste of the sub-editor, who himself added the objectionable words.

Mr. Justice Goldney, in given his decision, said that, as regards the two girls, he did not think the report exaggerated in any material point what took place, and as for the libel against them he did not think they were entitled to a further damages. They misbehaved themselves in such a way as to render the magistrate in sending them to their first offence, in prison, so perhaps, the Chinese sub-editor was not so far wrong in calling them magistrates. As regards the woman, he had no doubt that the words were used in the sense of meaning that she was a person of a low class, whether actually a prostitute or only a single girl. He thought the words were libellous, and now came the question of damages. \$10,000 had been paid into Court, which was to his mind a considerable sum. She claimed \$10,000 on the ground that everybody who read the paper would be prejudiced against her, and she would be brought up by having such a suggestion made as regards her character. When, however, her daughters used the disgraceful language to her neighbour they were said to have done, calling her a prostitute of the lowest class, she merely held up her finger. When she brought up her daughters in this way her feelings could not be so very fine, and in his opinion \$100 was amply sufficient. Of course, he was exceedingly sorry for the husband, but he did not think the fact that the *Seng Poh* had called his wife names would affect his private opinion as much as the fact that his children were being brought up so badly. He should therefore find for the plaintiff, and as the money had been paid into Court, costs would follow in the usual way; the plaintiffs would pay the costs.—*Free Press*.

STRAY MEMORIES.

(By ELLEN TERRY.)

It was at the Queen's Theatre, on one very foggy night in— I forget the month and even the year, that Mr. Irving and I acted together the first time. The play was *Katherine and Petruchio*—a hashed-up version of *The Taming of the Shrew*. I fancy we neither of us played very well. From the very first I noted that Mr. Irving worked more conscientiously than all the other actors put together, and the most important lesson of my working life I learnt from him, that to do one's work well one must work continually, live a life of constant self-denial for the purpose, and in short, keep one's nose upon the grindstone. It is a lesson one had better learn early in stage life, I think, for the bright, glorious, healthy career of a successful actor is but brief at the best. There is an old story told of Mr. Irving being "struck with my talent at this time and promising that if he ever had a theatre of his own he'd give me an engagement." But that is all moonshine.

As matters of fact I am sure he never thought of me at all, but I was a very young girl, acting very badly, and feeling like a carter's boy, and in short, keeping one's nose upon the grindstone. It is a lesson one had better learn early in stage life, I think, for the bright, glorious, healthy career of a successful actor is but brief at the best. There is an old story told of Mr. Irving being "struck with my talent at this time and promising that if he ever had a theatre of his own he'd give me an engagement." But that is all moonshine.

When I returned it was to the same theatre. The Queen's was now under different management, and my friend Mr. Charles Read, who was at the time of affairs, Dear lovely, aggravating, childlike, crafty, gentle, obstinate, and entirely delightful and interesting Charles Read! His play, *The Wandering Jew*, was in the middle of a successful run, and Mrs. John Wood, who was playing the principal part, was leaving the theatre for some other engagement. I took her place as Philippa Chester, and from that time until the present have never lost sight of my work. That was a delightful engagement.

Mr. Read used to sit in a private box every night and watch the play, and I was very much between each act, telling me what I had done ill and what well in the preceding act. I have the letters still, and were I to give them to the readers of "Stray Memories" would find very different and very interesting reading; but since I am of the opinion that to publish private letters intended for one person only is like asking an audience to put their ears to a keyhole and listen to a private conversation, I must ask my readers to excuse me. I never have met with anybody who possesses so many of the qualities of Charles Read. He was so big-hearted and glib, and yet for moments as suspicious as Old Nick. O dear moment, with a friend, it would be "My dearest child," and the next (under some fancied wrong)—"Madam, you are a rat—you desert a sinking ship." I have seen him stand up and sing "The Girl I Left Behind Me" in the most pathetic manner, with the tears streaming from his kind old cheeks. I've seen him while with rage and his dark hair blazing, when someone belonging to me has said lightly and playfully to him, "Why did poor Nell come home from rehearsal looking so tired yesterday? You work her too hard." He thought it was unjust, and simply flamed in his wrath; but, oh! it was so sweet, the reconciliations after such little misunderstandings; and the rehearsals were always shorter afterwards. He used to say there should be no such word as quarrel, and one morning he produced mysteriously from his pocket-book a slip of paper with these words written in big letters:

"THINK OF EXISTING THINGS AS HONEY SUGARSTICKS."

"There, my Eleanor Delicia," he always called me that (my name is Ellen Allen) "stick that up in some place where you will often see it. Better put it on your looking-glass," he rudely added, "it will save you a world of unhappiness if you get those words well into your noodle." I think he was right.

Not always so right were his theories about stage management. One idea of his was that everything should be real in the way of props, and he was very particular about the play of his own, called *Rachel the Reformer*, and tried to put into practice some of his pet theories. He had a short real wall built across the stage, but as there was no real sun there were no real shadows, and the absence of the painted shadows made the real wall appear like anything but a

wall. There was a real pony, who did his part beautifully, but the real sheep, the real dog, and the real goat really deserved to be fished a week's salary. As for the real pigs—well, they never appeared at all. Mr. Read arrived in a four-wheeler one morning at rehearsal with a goat and three wee pigs. The goat was secured, but the instant the cab door was opened away went the pigs helter-skelter, one towards the Strand, another towards Endell Street, and a third here and there, and dear old Charles Read flung after them, and in such dandy earnest, too, for did not the success of his play depend upon those real pigs? But no—not "one little piggy stayed at home," and Charles Read, in his rage, declared the pigs should be "cut out"—and cut out they were.

The goat—it was a he, and we called it Rachel—after the play was taken by Charles Read to his beautiful garden at Knightsbridge. A little thatched house was built for him, and books. "On Goats!" we were bound to show how to treat that animal properly. But the ungrateful wretch had no appreciation of the fine food bought him, nor of the velvet lawn; and even the thatched house failed to touch his heart. He played away, getting thinner and thinner, the better he was fed. Now, the dining-room was on a level with the lawn. One evening the windows were opened, and when the gas was lighted, in frisked Mr. Goat in the highest spirits. All was clear. He had been born and bred in the garden, and he played—not for fresh air, nor for lawn, nor for thatched houses, but for the smell of the lamps and the applause of the multitude. He may be alive at this day, for he was sent back as an ungrateful goat who had no more appreciation than a pig of an aesthetic existence.

How many animals (on two and four legs!) have caused to remember Charles Read with reverence and gratitude—I am one of them! I am talking of realism reminds me that people often express surprise at the real tears I shed when I am acting. These surprise, sometimes. My effort is to keep from tears. When I, as Beatrice, in *Much Ado About Nothing*, listen in the church scene exclaiming to Hero being "done to death by slanderous tongues" to her father's agony and grand championship of her; to the sweet, tender words of the Friar, I ask myself how can anyone bear such words unmoved? And then, later on in the scene, the winged words of Beatrice in defence of her cousin—can anything be more tear-stirring?

Of course, some people can't cry, and yet can feel stirred to the depths of their nature. Of course, some, too, have no depths at all. Some, when they walk in the woods in springtime, cannot see fairies—even in the evening. I remember a sweet, white-faced old man, who used to go round his garden every evening just saying good-night to his flowers. I blunderingly came upon him one evening, and hearing him talking slunk away again. After that I sat in the sky window with my work, and watched him each evening. I am sure he saw fairies. Oh, for an audience of many such as he! He could not read Shakespeare, but he could read the depths of his nature. Of course, some, too, have no depths at all. Some, when they walk in the woods in springtime, cannot see fairies—even in the evening. I remember a sweet, white-faced old man, who used to go round his garden every evening just saying good-night to his flowers. I blunderingly came upon him one evening, and hearing him talking slunk away again. 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